Digital Communications:
Connecting everyone

Digital communications / Teachers notes

Focus

This activity encourages students to recognise the rate of change in communications technology over the last 100 years - and begin to see their place at a tipping point in this story.

Objectives

Students will:
- learn about the increasing rate of development in communications technology.

Outcomes

All students will:
- list the communications technologies they use regularly.

Most students will also:
- distinguish between essential and non-essential uses of communications technology.

Some students will also:
- describe key changes in communications technology over the last few decades.

Equipment

- Worksheet: *My networks.*
- Worksheet: *Four revolutions.*

Running the activity

The two worksheets here present a combination of personal and global perspective. *My networks* is a useful starter to get students thinking about their own use of communications technology, how much they take it for granted and how lost they would feel if their mobile was lost or Facebook access was banned for a week!

The *Four revolutions* sheet puts their position in a longer historical timescale and illustrates the increasing 'democratisation' of communications technology. This introduces the idea of switching from being merely a consumer of communications technology (listening to radio, watching television etc.) into becoming a producer (recording your own songs, making home videos etc.) which is the main thrust of the final module.